

oversaw the nonpartisan staff in providing ethics advice and education, administered the Senate's financial disclosure program, modernized and redesigned the committee's website, and conducted investigations and enforcement of ethics rules, laws and standards of conduct. Beyond the Senate, Deb represented the committee at conferences and on councils around the country and abroad. In all these efforts, Deb brought her trademark dedication to rigorous accuracy and precision. On behalf of the members and staff of the Select Committee on Ethics, I thank Deb for her decades of service to our country and commitment to the U.S. Senate. I offer my sincere best wishes and gratitude to Deb and her family as she begins her retirement.

Thank you, Deb.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JOHN E. HYTEN

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate Gen. John E. Hyten on his retirement from the U.S. Air Force. I also want to extend my congratulations to his wife, Laura, and note the remarkable bond they share. Their partnership in life has enabled his success in uniform, and his achievements are truly theirs.

Across four decades of service, General Hyten has risen through the ranks to become one of the most respected voices in our military, and many in this Chamber rely on his deep knowledge and expertise. This is especially true on matters relating to space and nuclear deterrence.

I got to know General Hyten when he became a Nebraska constituent following his appointment to be the commander of U.S. Strategic Command in 2016. This was actually General Hyten's second tour of duty at Offutt Air Force Base, having previously commanded the 6th Space Operations Squadron there in the late nineties.

During his 3 years as the commander of STRATCOM, I was privileged to work closely with him, not just as the senior Senator from Nebraska, but also the chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee's Strategic Forces subcommittee, which directly oversees STRATCOM's mission areas.

During this span, we witnessed a marked shift in the strategic landscape, with worrying trends with respect to adversary behavior in space and investment in nuclear arms greatly accelerating. This elevated the importance of STRATCOM's mission and meant that, as its commander, General Hyten was on the front line of some of the most daunting security challenges facing our Nation.

During his tenure, he played a key role in the Department of Defense's response to these evolving threats. As space transformed into a warfighting domain, his candid advice was invaluable in Congress reorganization of the Department of Defense's space enterprise, including the creation of the

Space Force and elevation of Space Command to a full-fledged unified combatant command.

He was also an extremely effective advocate for our Nation's nuclear forces, which continue to be the bedrock of our national security. As a vocal champion of nuclear modernization, he helped make the case for renewing the triad and broadening the modernization conversation to increase focus on nuclear command, control and communications—or NC3—systems, as well as National Nuclear Security Administration's nuclear complex.

He played an important part in drafting the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review, which marked the first time since the end of the Cold War that an NPR occurred against a backdrop of growing nuclear threats and therefore had to confront the uncomfortable reality that Russia and China had not followed our lead in reducing nuclear stockpiles.

He explained the problem with his customary candor: "When we started de-emphasizing nuclear weapons, what did the rest of the world do? The rest of the world did exactly the opposite. So if we de-emphasize nuclear weapons, we're putting the country at jeopardy and we can never allow that to happen."

Those sage words are still true today and should continue to guide U.S. nuclear policy. They also reflect another of General Hyten's characteristics that I value greatly: his unwavering focus on the threats facing our Nation. A tireless advocate for a return of threat-based planning, he always endeavored to base his approach on the changing threat picture and to educate those around him about the activities of our adversaries.

When he was nominated to be the next Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I felt very strongly that he was the right leader, with the right expertise, at the right time. I knew he would bring all of the qualities that distinguished him as a STRATCOM commander to bear in his new role, and he did not disappoint.

As Vice Chairman, he continued to discharge his responsibilities with great professionalism and dedication, and his confirmation to the position also meant that the Nation could benefit from his leadership for 2 more years.

Sadly, that time is at an end. And while the 40 years of exemplary service Gen. John Hyten has rendered make this retirement well-earned, I hope he will continue to share his wisdom and counsel. I wish General Hyten and his wife, Laura, a wonderful retirement together and all the best in their future.

AFGHANISTAN

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, the Biden administration's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan jeopardized our national security, empowered our enemies, and put thousands of innocent lives in jeopardy. But

as the situation devolved, stories emerged of heroic efforts to push back the Taliban's advance and save stranded Americans, allies, and Afghan partners from the clutches of one of the world's most dangerous terror organizations.

Today, I want to honor a group of unsung heroes who joined this effort from the home front. Team Blackburn is blessed to include a dedicated and tenacious group of caseworkers and personal staff who treat the needs of Tennesseans like those of their own families. During those chaotic weeks, these people fielded hundreds of panicked calls for help from and on behalf of Tennesseans who were trapped behind enemy lines. They used every resource at their disposal, leveraged every connection they could think of and worked more than a few miracles to bring those Tennesseans closer to home.

On behalf of the Volunteer State, I thank the following members of my staff who went above and beyond on behalf of the common cause of freedom: Elizabeth Kelly, Payton Scott, Kayley Russell, Heather Hatcher, Josh Knell, Jeri Wheeler, Dana Magnuson, Caroline Diaz-Barriga, Kim Cordell, Mac McCullough, Alexander Gonzalez, Grace Burch, Jay Strobino, John Clement, Edward Pritchard, and Emily Manning.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, the U.S. Supreme Court is set to hear the most anticipated abortion case in nearly 30 years when it considers *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* in oral argument on December 1, 2021. This development allows us to consider the many people whose dedication to the pro-life cause has led us to this point. One of those people is former President Donald J. Trump. The pro-life movement would not be where it is today absent his advocacy for pro-life policies and for conservative judges.

In January 2016, Presidential candidate Trump said, "America, when it is at its best, follows a set of rules that have worked since our Founding. One of those rules is that we, as Americans, revere life and have done so since our Founders made it the first, and most important, of our 'unalienable' rights."

He continued, "Over time, our culture of life in this country has started sliding toward a culture of death. Perhaps the most significant piece of evidence to support this assertion is that since *Roe v. Wade* was decided by the Supreme Court 43 years ago, over 50 million Americans never had the chance to enjoy the opportunities offered by this country. They never had the chance to become doctors, musicians, farmers, teachers, husbands, fathers, sons or daughters. They never had the chance to enrich the culture of this nation or to bring their skills, lives, loves or passions into the fabric of this country. They are missing, and they are missed."